



MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE

CRUDE DATA	
Number of Cases	59
Annual Incidence ^a	
LA County	0.66
California	1.37
United States	1.29
Age at Onset	
Mean	29
Median	24
Range	20 days - 78 yrs
Case Fatality	
LA County	12%
United States	N/A

^aCases per 100,000 population.

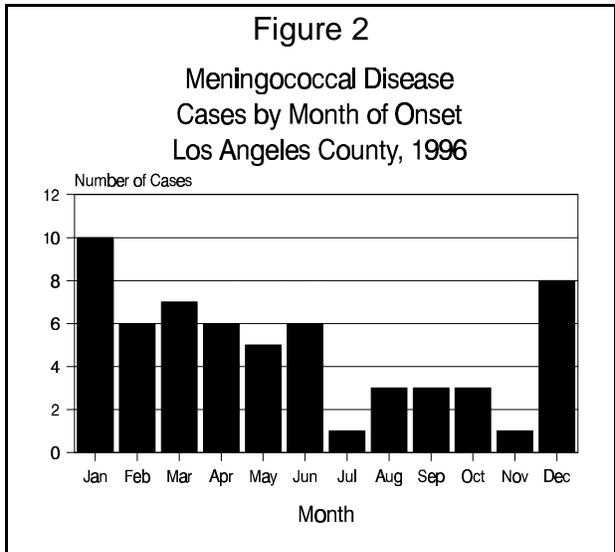
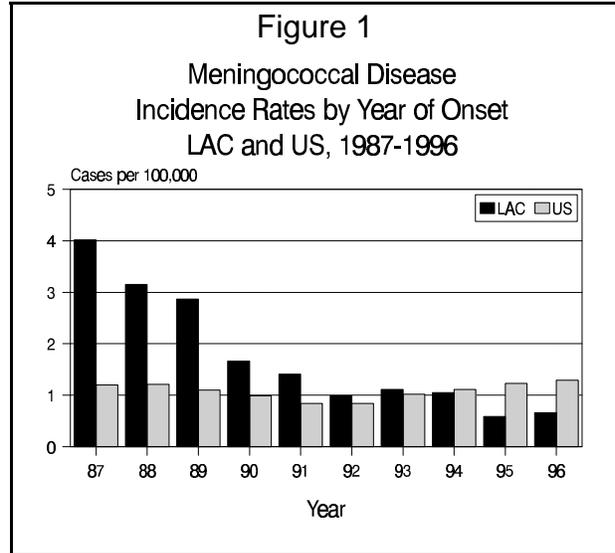
ETIOLOGY

Neisseria meningitidis, a gram-negative diplococcus.

DISEASE ABSTRACT

In 1996, the number of meningococcal disease cases increased, but remained relatively low. The number of cases in those aged 65 and older more than doubled over the previous year, as did the number of deaths. Serogroup Y emerged as the predominant strain. No outbreaks were reported.

STRATIFIED DATA





Trends: The 1996 meningococcal disease rate increased from a nine-year low of 0.59 per 100,000 in 1995 to 0.66 per 100,000, reversing the downward trend (Figure 1). Fatalities were seen in adults and exceeded those among the very young.

Seasonality: Seasonal occurrence was typical, with the highest number of cases occurring in the winter months (Figure 2).

Age: In 1996, disease rates decreased among those under 35 and increased among those 35 and older. Rates were highest among infants less-than-one-year old and children aged 1-4 (4.01 and 1.74 per 100,000, respectively) and in those aged 65 and older (1.08 per 100,000) where the number of cases increased from three in 1995 to seven (Figure 3).

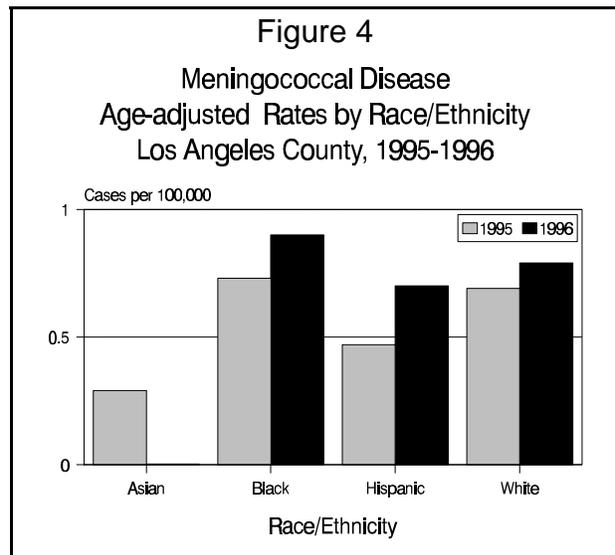
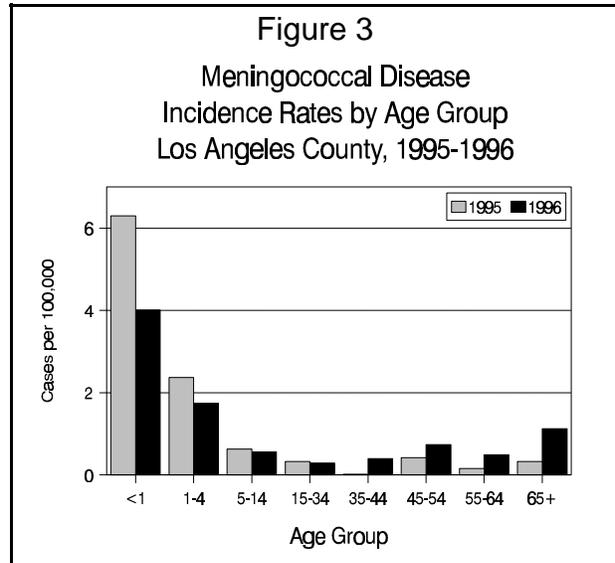
Sex: The male-to-female rate ratio was 1.1:1.

Race/Ethnicity: For the second consecutive year, age-adjusted meningococcal disease rates were highest among Blacks (0.97 per 100,000), followed by Whites and Hispanics (0.83 and 0.67, respectively). Rates among all racial/ethnic groups except Asians increased in 1996. No cases among Asians were reported in 1996 (Figure 4).

Location: The highest rates of meningococcal disease occurred in the Southeast (3.18 per 100,000), Compton (1.81 per 100,000), and Bellflower (1.73 per 100,000) Health Districts.

COMMENTS

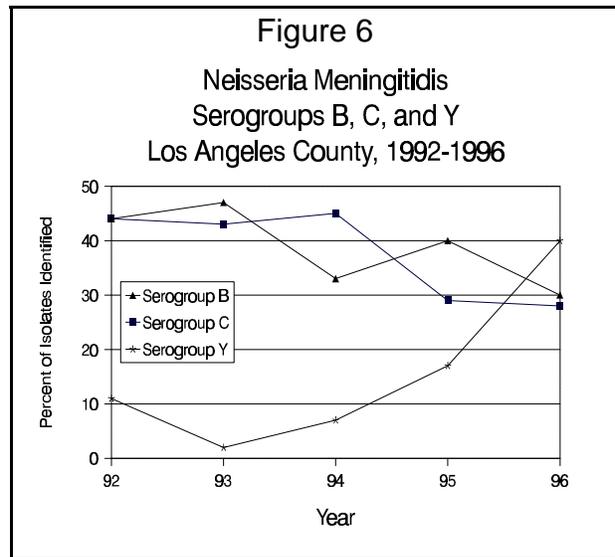
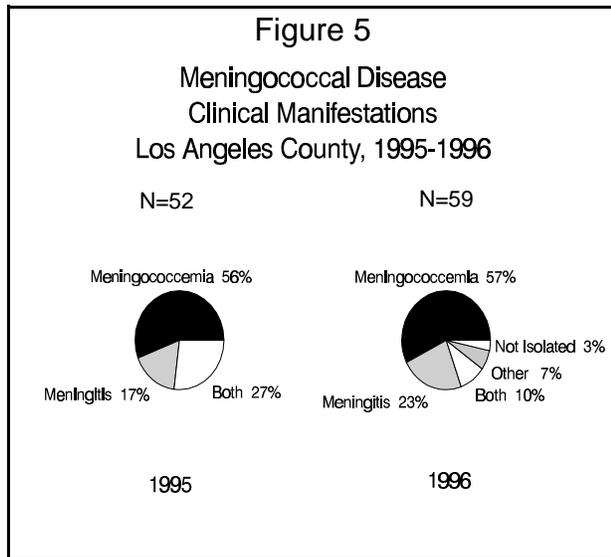
There were two cases in inmates at different LAC jails resulting in the prophylaxis of 634





contacts. Serogroups C and Y were identified.

There were seven case fatalities, two small children and five adults, ranging in age from five months to 71 years. From the case isolates submitted, serogroups B (n= 1), C (n= 1), and Y (n= 2) were identified.



N. meningitidis was isolated from blood in 57% of the cases, from cerebrospinal fluid in 23% of the cases, and from both in 10% of the cases. The other sources from which *N. meningitidis* was isolated included a tracheal aspirate, an eye wound, and sputum (Figure 5).

Serogroup identification was made in 70% of the cases reported in 1996. Serogroup Y (40%), increasing in frequency since 1993, replaced serogroup B (30%) as the predominant strain (Figure 6). The remaining cases were identified as serogroup C (28%) and W-135 (2%).